

4th Quarter (Biomes/Weathering, Catastrophic Events, Human Impact)

Adaptation - adjustment to environmental conditions

Aquifer – a layer of rock that contains water

Biodiversity – many different living things in one place (variety of life)

Biomass – matter that is or was living

Biome - a large geographical area characterized by certain types of plants and animals

Chemical weathering – chemical reactions break down the bonds holding the rocks together, causing them to fall apart, forming smaller and smaller pieces

Climate – average weather conditions in an area over a long period of time

Climax community – the last stage of succession when plant, animals, and fungi are at their maximum level

Commensalism – relationship between two organisms when one organism benefits and the other organism is not harmed but also not helped

Coniferous forest – a biome that is filled with cone-bearing trees like pine trees

Deciduous Forest – a biome that is filled with trees that lose their leaves during certain parts of the year; we live on the edge of a deciduous forest biome.

Deposition – the process of a substance being moved or deposited to another place (dirt or rock being moved by water to another place)

Desert – a biome that has very little plant and animal life. It is usually very hot during the day and cool at night with very little precipitation.

Dune - a hill or ridge of sand piled up by the wind

Earthquake – shaking and vibration at the surface of the earth resulting from underground movement along a fault plane or from volcanic activity

Ecological succession – the gradual process of more and more plants and animals growing and living in a specific area

Ecosystem – many different living and non-living things interacting in a specific area

Equilibrium – equality of distribution; there is not too much of one thing and too little of another; everything is proportional

Erosion – a condition in which the earth’s surface is worn away by the action of water and wind

Fault – a crack in the earth’s crust

Food chain – a chart showing how energy is passed from producer, to primary consumer, to secondary consumer, to tertiary consumer, to decomposer

Food web – many interacting food chains showing how energy is passed from producer, to primary consumer, to secondary consumer, to tertiary consumer, to decomposer

Fresh water - water that is not salty (water from lakes, streams, underground aquifers)

Glacier - a large body of ice moving slowly down a slope or valley

Grassland – a biome where grass or grasslike vegetation grows and is the dominant form of plant life; we live on the edge of a grassland

Groundwater - water contained under the ground's surface that is a common source of drinking water

Lava – melted (molten) rock from a volcano

Limiting factor – a factor in the environment that limits the size of a population (fire, climate, lack of rain)

Magma – melted (molten) rock inside the earth

Mechanical / physical weathering – rocks that are torn apart by force and not by chemical reactions

Mutualism – a relationship between two organisms where they each benefit and depend on each other

Natural selection – plants and animals that adapt best to the environment will survive, reproduce, and grow in number

Niche - the role or job of an organism in a community

Opportunistic species - plants like weeds and some grasses that grow after the pioneer species in succession

Parasitism – a relationship between organisms when one organism benefits and the other organism is hurt, damaged, or dies

Pioneer species – species such as lichens or moss that grow directly on rock; these are the first species to grow in an area during succession

Population – a group of organisms of the same species populating a given area

Porous – a solid with many holes in it

Precipitation - hail, mist, rain, sleet, or snow

Primary succession – the first stage of succession when plants live and grow in an area without soil

Runoff – too much water is in a specific area and has to flow to another place

Secondary succession – The second stage of succession when plants grow after a disturbance where there has already been soil

Seed dispersal – seeds being spread throughout an area

Sediment – a substance like soil or rock that is moved during deposition

Selective breeding – people breeding specific organisms to give them a desired look, behavior, or trait

Succession - the gradual process of more and more plants and animals growing and living in a specific area

Tropical rainforest – a biome that is very warm and wet with the most biodiversity

Tsunami – a huge destructive wave (especially one caused by an earthquake)

Tundra - a biome that is very cold and flat with no trees; usually in arctic regions

Volcano - An opening in the earth's crust through which molten lava, ash, and gases are ejected

Water table – underground surface below which the ground is wholly saturated with water; the water table changes depending on recent amounts of precipitation

Watershed – a piece of land that is shaped like a funnel that allows water to flow a specific direction

Weathering – weather changing the color, texture, or composition of the exposed objects (Chemical or Physical Weathering)

Well - a pit or hole in the earth to reach a supply of water